

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers* 323

From the scientific and polemical writers of Roger's reign we turn to the historians. The fullest outlines of his life are given by three native Latin authors, but naturally many details are painted in by historians who properly belong to an earlier or later period and by writers of the Moslem, the Western, the Greek, and the North Italian states with which he came into contact,*

To the main Latin historians of the reign, Peter the Deacon, Falco of Benevento, and Alexander of Telese, we may also add Falcandus for the latter years, though he is properly a historian of the next reign. The work of Peter the Deacon, of Monte Cassino, is that of a very readable if not an amiable author.² Peter, born in 1107, was a son of the Roman Egidius, who himself was a great-grandson of Alberic and Marozia, famous in the days of the "Pornocracy." Offered as a child in 1115 to the abbey of Monte Cassino, he spent most of his days there and later won the favour of the Abbot Seniorectus. A fluent writer and tireless transcriber, he was made librarian of the abbey, and entrusted by his Superior with the continuation of the work of Leo of Ostia, whose history of Monte Cassino had ended with the

year 1075,
Peter carried on this work as far as
1139; we owe
also to him a Register of his abbey
nearly as large
if not as trustworthy as the famous
Farfa Register,
and various lives of saints and worthies
of Monte

* See Appendix; B on the sources for this reign,
»Chron* Casinensis, ed, Wattenbach,
M,G,H.SS., vii,